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Formosa from Tamsui to Faiwamfu. Bullock, Trip into the interior of Formosa. Nares, On the Navigation of Smith's Sound, as a Route to the Polar Sea. Carpenter, Lecture on the Temperature of the Deep Sea Bottom and the Conditions by which it is determined. Trotter, The Pundit's Journey from Leh to Lhásа and return to India via Assam. Macfarlane, Voyage of the Ellangowam to China Straits, New Guinea. No. V.—Address at the Anniversary Meeting, May 28th, by Sir R. Alcock. No. VI.—Crowther, Notes on the River Niger. Hutchinson, Progress of the Victoria Nyanza Expedition of the Church Missionary Society. Wallace, Lecture on the Comparative Antiquity of Continents as indicated by the Distribution of Living and Extinct Animals. Markham, The Arctic Expedition of 1875-76 (with a map). Simson, Notes of Journeys in the Interior of South America. Smith, The Translation and Transliteration of Chinese Geographical Names. Marsh, Description of a Journey Overland to India, *via* Meshed, Herat, Candahar, and the Bolan Pass, 1872. Kirk, Visit to the Mungao District, near Cape Delgado. Cottam, Overland Route to China, *via* Assam, &c., across the Irrawaddi into Yunan.

Among recent geographical works are the following: S. W. Silver & Co.'s Handbook to the Transvaal; British South Africa, Its Natural Features, Industries, Population and Gold Fields, 1877. South Africa; Its Difficulties and Present State, suggested by a recent visit to that country. By A. R. Campbell Johnson, 1877. South Africa; Past and Present. By John Noble. Loango und die Loankuste. Von Dr. Pechuel-Lösche. Leipzic, 1876. (London, Trübner & Co.)

MICROSCOPY.[1]

NEW CABINET FOR SLIDES.—Two slide cabinets have recently been described in *Science Gossip* which possess some advantages for certain purposes, and have the no small recommendation that they can be easily and cheaply made.

Mr. T. H. Moorhead's cabinet is in the book form, and is made of card-boards mounted in slate frames. Common school slates are selected, of suitable size and with perfect frames. The frames are carefully smoothed at the corners, stained mahogany color if desired, and varnished and polished. The slates are then removed from them and replaced by card-boards cut to the same size and covered on both sides with fine white paper. Across the cards are stitched bands of silk elastic at such distances that when the card is covered with rows of slides nearly touching each other each row will be crossed and kept down by one band about an inch from the ends of the slides. The band is stitched to the card at intervals of an inch and a quarter, so that each slide will be separately held. Stout canvas can be tacked to the edge of each frame. and the whole bound together, in volumes of about five each, by a bookbinder, forming a really handsome set. If the cards are six and a half by ten inches they will hold fifteen slides on a page. The slides and their labels are well displayed, though they cannot lie in the best position for safe keeping except by allowing the volume to lie flat and leaving the under page of each unused.

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[1] This department is edited by Dr. R. H. Ward, Troy, N. Y.

Mr. A. W. Stokes, of Guy's hospital, has contrived a slide box, which is less showy than this, but more compact and portable. As a compromise between a stationary cabinet and a box for carrying around, it seems to possess advantages not before attained. A box is made like an ordinary tray-slide box, opening both at the top and front. In this the slides lie flat in several tiers of a single row each, with their ends pointing towards the front of the box. The upper row rests in a tray with a ledge in front, and close to the cover when the box is closed. Below this the rows of slides rest on shelves, each of which projects forward half an inch or more beyond the one above it, so that the slides will also project and the labels of all the rows be visible at once. Stops are arranged between the shelves, behind, to prevent the slides slipping back too far, and between the separate slides on each shelf to prevent their striking together. A piece of card-board or thin wood hinged to the cover falls in a slanting direction across the rows, and keeps the slides from slipping forward in any position of the box when it is closed. The shelves may be of light card-board, as they are well supported by the wooden strips which confine the slides behind and at the sides. A box nine inches long by five inches broad and two inches deep will hold thirty-five slides in five rows or tiers of seven each. [A very neat case may be made of a good cigar box, while another box may be cut up to furnish the ledges or partitions between shelves.]

DIATOMS.—Under this title the Industrial Publication Company has produced a neat and useful little book which will be a great convenience to many workers. It is a reprint of three papers on the subject of collecting, preserving, and preparing diatoms, by Professors A. M. Edwards, Christopher Johnston and M. L. Smith, respectively. These excellent papers will be handy in this form even for those whose libraries include the originals in the Lens and the Natural History of New Hampshire.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MICROSCOPY.—The great success of this popular journal of microscopy, together with the inconvenience of mailing half-dollars in the present state of our currency, has induced the radical change of doubling its size with a corresponding increase of price. While much better opportunity will thus be obtained for elaborate articles, the simple and elementary character will still be maintained. The change will please many readers and incommode but few.

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETIES.—The following elections of new officers have taken place since the last list published:—

American Association for the advancement of Science, microscopical subsection, meets annually in connection with the migratory sessions of the association. Chairman for the Nashville meeting, 1877, Dr. R. H. Ward, of Troy, New York; for the St. Louis meeting, 1878, Dr. Geo. S. Blackie, of Nashville, Tenn.

Dunkirk Microscopical Society. President, Geo. E. Blackham, M.D.; secretary and treasurer, A. P. Alling, M.D.

Fairmount Microscopical Society. President, S. H. Griffith, M.D.; secretary and treasurer, Wm. C. Stevenson, Jr.; managers, John Gordon Gray, Thomas D. Ingram, M.D., and Henry Winter Davis.

Nature Club, Albany, New York. Organized October 1877. Microscopy a prominent feature. Meets at residences of members on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month. President, Geo. T. Stevens, M.D.; vice-president, D. J. Pratt; secretary, Richard Prescott.

State Microscopical Society of Illinois. President, Henry W. Fuller; vice-presidents, Lester Curtis, M.D., and Chas. S. Fellows; secretary, H. F. Atwood; corresponding secretary, O. C. Oliver, M.D.; treasurer, B. W. Thomas; trustees, S. J. Jones, M.D., Professor E. Bastin, W. H. Summers, H. M. Thompson and James Colgrove.

Troy Scientific Association; microscopical section. Chairman, R. H. Ward, M.D.; vice-chairman, Rev. A. B. Hervey; secretary, Professor A. W. Bower.

Tyndall Association; section of microscopy. President, Rev. I. F. Stidham; secretary and treasurer, Curtis C. Howard; curator, Professor T. C. Mendenhall.

EXCHANGES.—A Curtis' section cutter, made by Miller, of New York (cost $20.00), for microscopical objects or books. Address offers to C. E. H., No. 1 Gale Place, Troy, N. Y.

Plumule scales of small cabbage butterfly (*Pieris rapæ*), mounted, for good slides. Address Edward Pennock, 805 Franklin street, Philadelphia.

Very fine mountings of shells from the Bermudas, for objects of special interest. Address C. C. Merriman, Rochester, N. Y.

Material: Marine algæ, diatoms in situ on algæ from east and west coasts, musci, lichens, ferns, lycopodia, garnet sand, &c., in exchange for mounted slides. M. A. Booth, Longmeadow, Mass.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Two articles on the evolution of nerves and nerve-systems, illustrated by the structure of *Aurelia*, a type of the lowest group of animals in which a nervous system appears, have been pub-